

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02118 051700Z

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3004

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2118

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARAMANLIS, CONSTANTINE) GR US

SUBJ: CARAMANLIS VISIT TO THE U.S.

REF A. ATHENS 2069 B. ATHENS 2062 C. ATHENS 2007 D. ATHENS 1997

1. AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS THAT HE WILL MAKE HIS OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES ON JUNE 15-16, 1976. HE HAS ACCEPTED THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION WITH PLEASURE AND SAYS HE IS VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS VISIT AND MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON.

2. CARAMANLIS WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON, INCLUDING WHEN HE SHOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE AND DEPART. HE KNOWS THAT MONDAY, JUNE 14, IS FLAG DAY AND THAT ALTHOUGH NOT AN OFFICIAL AMERICAN HOLIDAY THERE IS SOME OFFICIAL U.S. ACTIVITY THAT DAY. HE IS CONSIDERING SPENDING A FEW ADDITIONAL DAYS IN THE UNITED STATES AFTER LEAVING WASHINGTON AND IS OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHERE HE SHOULD GO. HE ANTICIPATES MANY REQUESTS TO MEET AND ATTEND FUNCTIONS OF GREEK-AMERICAN GROUPS IN THE U.S. (I THINK HE MAY ALSO BE TRYING TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NOT REVEALED THIS TO ME HIMSELF AND WE SHOULD NOT INDICATE THAT WE ARE

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02118 051700Z

AWARE OF IT.)

3. CARAMANLIS IS PREPARED TO USE HIS VISIT TO ACCELERATE OUR STEADILY IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS AND THEREFORE, HE BELIEVES, THE VISIT SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST ONE MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ASPECT. SINCE HE FEELS THAT A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT IS IMPROBABLE -- GIVEN THE SITUATION IN TURKEY -- HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME KIND OF U.S. -- OR NATO -- RELATED PLAN TO GUARANTEE PEACE IN THE AEGEAN. HIS OVERRIDING CONCERN IS THE FUTURE SECURITY OF GREECE. (SEE BITSIOS' COMMENT PARA 2, REF A). IN DISCUSSING THIS POINT PRIVATELY WITH MOLYVIATIS, HE AND I BOTH FEEL THAT IF SOMETHING COULD BE DONE ALONG THESE LINES IT WOULD HAVE A TREMENDOUSLY FAVORABLE IMPACT IN GREECE AND HELP PAVE THE WAY FOR GREECE'S RETURN TO NATO AS WELL. I RECOGNIZE, OF COURSE, THAT NATO WAS NOT DESIGNED TO DEAL WITH DISPUTES OR CLASHES BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE AND THAT THERE WOULD BE PERHAPS INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES IN TRYING TO INTRODUCE SUCH A CONCEPT OR DIMENSION. HOWEVER, PERHAPS SOME CREATIVE WAY CAN BE FOUND TO DEAL WITH THIS POINT. THE DAMAGE DONE TO IMPORTANT, IF NOT VITAL, U.S. INTERESTS BY THE GREECE-TURKEY AND U.K.-ICELAND DISPUTES ARE TOO WELL KNOWN TO REQUIRE REPEATING HERE. IF SUCH A LINE OF ACTION COULD MATERIALIZE, IN ADDITION TO RECENTMENTING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH GREECE, WE MIGHT ALSO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AN INVIGORATING, NEW IMPULSE TO THE ALLIANCE ITSELF.

4. THE DEPARTMENT WILL NO DOUBT HAVE OTHER IDEAS FOR IMPORTANT, SUBSTANTIVE INPUTS INTO CARAMANLIS' VISIT, AND I AM SURE HE WOULD BE MORE THAN WILLING TO CONSIDER ANY PROPOSALS WE MIGHT HAVE. IN ADDITION, THERE MAY ALSO BE ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, MILITARY, TECHNICAL AND OTHER KINDS OF AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS THAT COULD BE REACHED AND ANNOUNCED IN CONNECTION WITH HIS VISIT THAT WOULD TEND TO ENLARGE ITS FAVORABLE IMPACT.

5. AT THE MOMENT, CARAMANLIS ENVISAGES A BRIEF ONE OR TWO SENTENCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VISIT, BOTH IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ATHENS 02118 051700Z

WASHINGTON AND IN ATHENS, BUT HE IS INCLINED TO DEFER THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR A WHILE LONGER. I HAVE TOLD HIM THAT I DID NOT THINK MUCH OF A DELAY WAS PRACTICAL SINCE THERE HAS ALREADY BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF SPECULATION ABOUT A VISIT (REFTELS). MY OWN FEELING IS THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE MADE WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK OR TWO, SIMULTANEOUSLY IN BOTH CAPITALS. THEREFORE, UNLESS THERE IS SOME REASON IN WASHINGTON

NOT TO DO SO OF WHICH I AM NOT AWARE, I  
RECOMMEND THAT A PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT BE DRAFTED AND SENT  
TO ME FOR CLEARANCE WITH CARAMANLIS, TOGETHER WITH A  
PROPOSED TIME AND DATE OF RELEASE. IN THE MEANTIME,  
UNTIL WE HAVE AGREED WITH CARAMANLIS AS TO HOW AND WHEN  
THE NEWS OF HIS VISIT WILL BE ANNOUNCED, I CONTINUE  
TO URGE UTMOST DISCRETION ON THE PART OF U.S. OFFICIALS  
ABOUT THE MATTER. I AM SURE THAT CARAMANLIS' HUGE  
PRIDE AND TOUCHINESS -- NOT TO MENTION THE ROILING  
POLITICAL CLIMATE HERE -- ARE TOO WELL KNOWN IN WASHINGTON  
FOR ME TO HAVE TO EXPLAIN WHY.

6. FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE DATES OF THE VISIT WAS ONLY  
REACHED WITH CARAMANLIS LAST NIGHT AND EXCEPT FOR  
BITSIOS' SLIP IN FRONT OF TWO OF HIS FOREIGN OFFICE  
COLLEAGUES WEDNESDAY (REF C), I BELIEVE THAT  
CARAMANLIS AND MOLYVIATIS MAY BE THE ONLY OTHER  
GREEK OFFICIALS AWARE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION  
TO GO AHEAD WITH HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. I  
DO NOT THINK THE GREEK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IS AWARE  
OF THE MATTER AS YET, AND OBVIOUSLY WE SHOULD NOT BE THE  
ONES TO TELL THEM.

6. CARAMANLIS INDICATED HE WOULD GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT  
TO MY VIEW THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD NOT BE LONG  
DELAYED AND I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF HE GOT IN  
TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WITH  
HIS FURTHER REACTION. IN THE MEANTIME, I WILL BE  
ABLE TO CONTACT HIM AGAIN PROMPTLY ON THIS POINT WHEN  
SO INSTRUCTED BY THE DEPARTMENT, I SHOULD HOPE BY  
EARLY NEXT WEEK AT THE LATEST. KUBISCH

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